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To Whom It May Concern:

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) strongly supports programs and policies that ensure small businesses and entrepreneurs have an opportunity to participate and compete in the market. However, we believe that increasing the current set-aside would allow wealthy corporations such as T-Mobile, Sprint, and DISH to pay less for the spectrum than it's actually worth, which would essentially rob money and access from taxpayers and the Federal government.

Founded in 1982, NCIL is the longest-running national cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. NCIL represents thousands of organizations and individuals including Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), individuals with disabilities, and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.

Big companies like T-Mobile, Sprint and DISH are in no financial need of federal subsidies, and allowing them to receive reduced-cost bandwidth further shuts out the small businesses that were supposed to be protected. Providing taxpayer-funded bidding credits to these big businesses unfairly takes money from taxpayers, and the reduced net revenue of these auctions results in less money available for other governmental programs. Additionally, restricting bidding competition will result in less spectrum being available to meet consumer demand for mobile spectrum, which is increasingly becoming a necessity for many Americans, including those of us with disabilities.

Giving T-Mobile, Sprint, and DISH government subsidies places taxpayer money that could be going to vital programs in desperate need of increased funding, and instead putting it into the hands these undeserving corporations. NCIL strongly opposes these actions, and hopes that the FCC will not cave into the pressure of these organizations by adopting rules that transfer wealth from the U.S. Treasury to wealthy companies like T-Mobile, Sprint, and DISH.

Respectfully submitted:

Kelly Buckland
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